



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **QUARTERLY ROUNDTABLE MEETING** **APRIL 25, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence in memory of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald

Commissioner Carl E. Moore arrived at 10:10 AM.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Rita Hall
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

Vito Cannella

Others Present

Paul McIver, Dept. of Mental Health
Sandra Thomas, Dept. of Mental Health
Elizabeth Howard, Dept. of Children and Family Services
Lisa Parrish, Dept. of Children and Family Services
Carla Carr, L.A. County Auditor-Controller
Howard Wong, Dept. of Probation
Frank Imperial, Dept. of Probation
Timothy Braden, Internal Services Dept.
Kenyon Gates, Internal Services Dept.
Alan Henry, Community Care Licensing Division

Captain Warren Asmus, L.A. County Sheriff's Dept.
Commander Detta Roberts, L.A. County Sheriff's Dept.
Janice A. Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff

Chair Montano welcomed everybody for coming to the meeting and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Sheriff's Department- Commander Detta Roberts

- The Sheriff's Department is looking for additional space in the South Bay area for a regional training academy.
- Commander Roberts responded to an L.A. Times article, "ACLU Urges Action On Jail Conditions", April 25, 2007, regarding the ACLU investigating poor detention facility conditions for prisoners. The article listed cases where inmates were denied meals as well as cases of no heat in the facility. She said she would have ISD look into the situation and remedy the problem.
- Transit Services Bureau will speak to the Commission next month about the Boys & Girls Town fundraising efforts.

Sheriff's Department- Captain Warren Asmus

- Due to an attempted escape at Compton Court House more cuffing posts have been installed at the jail.
- A sally port was rented for the Eastlake facility.

Internal Services Dept. – Tim Braden

- Extra effort has been made at cleaning the lock-up facilities; a proposal is being prepared to replace the gates at the Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center.
- ISD receives 5,000 service calls, 36,000 preventative maintenance calls, and 6,000 calls a month related to non-emergent property improvement, such as painting, fixture removal, etc.

Department of Mental Health – Paul McIver

- There are 30 Rate Classification Level 12 group homes in Los Angeles County.
- Department of Mental Health makes sure that detained youths get mental health care so they can adjust to life outside of a group home.
- Mr. McIver said the goal of the Department of Mental Health is not to criminalize the clients at a home. He added that Metropolitan State Hospital isn't a solution to solving the problem of the youth and that a transfer from a group home to a State Mental Health Facility is contingent upon recommendation from a psychiatrist.

Dept. of Probation- Howard Wong and Frank Imperial

- The staff at juvenile hall camps are wearing uniforms of polo shirts and cargo pants. The dress code is now strongly enforced.
- Suicide cut-down tools have been installed at all the camps in the first-aid kits. Mr. Wong offered to bring an example to an upcoming meeting for demonstration.
- Mr. Wong introduced Frank Imperial to the Commission; he is the replacement for Mr. Ronald Hudson.
- Mr. Imperial reported that investigators have been sent to group homes to look into reports about physical restraint abuse.
- San Gabriel Children's Center has been placed on the "Do Not Refer" list.

When told of a group home graduation held by the Dept. of Probation, Commissioner Moore requested an invitation to attend the next graduation.

Dept. of Children and Family Services – Lisa Parrish

- Ms. Parrish spoke about the POM (Performance Outcome Measures) score cards for Foster Family Agencies and group homes (i.e., Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect and Out of Home Care). The Mental Health and Probation Departments have been meeting with the Department of Children and Family Services, and are involved in the rating process. Final score cards will be posted online in June 2007.
- The Department is working on reuniting youths with their families; this should result in fewer group home placements.
- The McKinley Home in San Dimas has been removed from the "Do Not Refer" list because the home fixed the problems related to Serious Incident Reports. The staff has been replaced by new staff that are better at controlling problems.

- The Commission was invited to the Emancipated Children Scholarship Event at Walt Disney Hall. They were also invited to an upcoming event at Universal Studios for emancipated youths.

Community Care License (CCL) – Alan Henry

- CCL cited the Ha're Johns Paradise home.
- CCL closed the TLC Home for Girls and the Peanuts Group Home.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 18, 2007 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren, seconded by Commissioner Moore, and unanimously carried, the minutes of April 18th, 2007 were approved, with no changes.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE (2) SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATES

The Commission read an e-mail from Mr. Ramon Castillo recommending two students from LA Trade Technical College for scholarships of \$250 each. On motion of Commissioner Hammargren and seconded by Commissioner Hall and unanimously carried, the two candidates were approved for the scholarships.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE QUARTERLY REPORT

On motion of Commissioner Hammargren and seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, the 1st Quarterly Report of 2007 was approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montañó spoke about two newspaper articles:

- "Congresswoman Millender-McDonald Dies" from The Daily Breeze, April 25, 2007 regarding the late Congresswoman and the valuable work she contributed during her thirty years of service.
- "L.A. County Child Homicides, Suicides Rose In '05, Study Finds" from L.A. Times, April 19, 2007 regarding statistics of L.A. County child deaths reported by ICAN. Thirty-three (33) children were killed and fifteen (15) committed suicide, yet the numbers are lower than in the early 1990s.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, Commission Services gave the following to report:

- RSVPs for the Los Angeles County Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 were arranged for the Commission. The Commission is to check into the Green Room for seating.
- RSVPs were made for the Commissioner's Leadership Conference on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 on behalf of the Commission.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,143.50.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM APRIL 18, 2007 TO APRIL 24, 2007

This item was deferred to the May 2, 2007 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Montaño informed the Commission that Barry J. Nidorff Juvenile Hall needs to be inspected, but since it is so large it requires the full Commission to conduct the inspection. The Commission agreed to meet on Tuesday, May 1, 2007, and asked Ms. Davis to arrange transportation for the inspection.

Vice Chair Stathatos gave Ms. Davis a copy of the binder that was handed out at the Gang Awareness and Intervention Conference, April 20, 2007, for filing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaño adjourned the meeting in memory of Congresswoman Julia Millender-McDonald at 12:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division